

## DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

**AMENDMENT DATE:** 05/02/2012  
**POSITION:** Oppose

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 1245  
**AUTHOR:** Alquist, Elaine

### **BILL SUMMARY:** Teacher credentialing: alternative certification programs report.

This bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), by January 1, 2015, to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature on alternative teacher certification programs in other states and make recommendations on: (1) the appropriate goals of alternative certification programs and whether current alternative certification programs meet these goals and (2) whether to consolidate specified California statute governing alternative certification programs.

### **FISCAL SUMMARY**

According to the CTC, it would likely cost \$125,000 Teacher Credentials Fund to produce the report.

### **COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- This bill is unnecessary because there is nothing in current statute that prohibits the research of alternative certification programs and report as proposed in this bill. Moreover, the proposed research and report could be completed by an independent non-CTC affiliated entity such as the Legislative Analyst's Office.
- Given that CTC faces severe budget restrictions and struggles to fulfill its current workload responsibilities, it would be challenging for CTC to take on the additional workload and costs that would result from this bill.

Current law establishes the alternative certification program to provide teacher candidates an entry-point to the teaching profession other than the traditional university-based, student-teaching pathway. Program participants are issued an intern credential that allows them to be employed as a teacher of record in the classroom while they are completing preparation for a preliminary credential. While a one-year early-completion option exists, California's alternative certification programs typically are two-year programs because they are held to the same teacher preparation standards and classroom pre-service requirements as traditional teacher preparation programs. Alternative certification programs typically serve non-traditional candidates such as career changers, industry experts, or individuals who cannot afford to complete an unpaid student teaching assignment.

According to the author's office, this bill intends to identify methods to expedite the credentialing of math, science, and special education teachers to address the reported teacher shortage in these areas.

The Budget Act of 2012 reduces CTC expenditures by \$1.5 million and increases credentialing fee revenue by \$3.5 million to address CTC's state operations budget shortfall of \$5.0 million. However, these budgetary solutions only fund CTC's traditional workload and would not create a reserve that would afford CTC the ability to take on new responsibilities. In addition to its traditional workload, CTC is working to implement corrective action to address issues raised by the Bureau of State Audits.

Analyst/Principal (0332) E.Hanson	Date	Program Budget Manager Nicolas Schweizer	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**AUTHOR**

**AMENDMENT DATE**

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Alquist, Elaine

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SB 1245

	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
Code/Department	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
Agency or Revenue	CO	PROP					Fund		
Type	RV	98	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	FC	2014-2015	Code
6360/Teacher Cred	SO	No	C	0	C	125	C	0	0407
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0407	Teacher Credentials Fund								